

To-day's Advertisements.

THEATRE ROYAL.
MESSRS. DALLAS AND MUSGRAVE'S
THEATRICAL SEASON.

TO-NIGHT! TO-NIGHT!

Grand Production of
MARK MELFORD'S
FUNNIEST OF ALL FUNNY FARCEAL
COMEDIES.
"TURNED UP."

PRICES: \$3, \$2 and \$1.

Soldiers and Sailors (in uniform) half-price to back seats only.

SATURDAY, April 15th.

Grant Production of
CHARLES READ'S GREAT MASTERPIECE
"IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO MEND."

Box Plan at the ROBINSON PIANO CO.

NOTICE:—A special train will run a quarter of an hour after fall of curtain every evening.

W. H. BROWN,
Business Manager.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [424]

GRAND GARDEN FETE

AND
FANCY FAIR.

For the Benefit of
FRENCH CONVENT,
ASILE DE LA SAINTE ENFANCE,
EAST POINT LAWNS.
SATURDAY, 15th APRIL, 1899.

HOURS:

Afternoon 4 to 6.30. Evening 8.30 to 10.30.

Many Attractions. Cafe Chantant.

ENTRANCE: ONE DOLLAR.

Soldiers and Sailors (in uniform), 25 cents.

Children under 10, Free.

DOOR-KEEPERS:

Messrs. ROTHBAM, R.W.F., and McKIE,

assisted by several of the following

STEWARDS:

Mr. A. Babington, Capt. Simonds, R.A.,

Messrs. Holbrell, R.W.F., B. Smith,

Col. The O'Connell, Messrs. Gershon Stewart,

H. Keen, R.N., Capt. The Hon. H. Trevelyan,

Mr. D. Laidlaw, Viscount Staird, and

and Capt. Des Vaux, R.E.

REFRESHMENT HALL:

Mrs. Bell Irving, Mrs. Morris, Mrs. Dickson,

Mrs. Rydall, Mr. May,

Misses Jackson, Mrs. Manwaring,

and Misses Powell.

CASHIER AND FINANCIAL AGENT:

Mr. John Burton.

FANCY STALL: Madam O'Connell.

GERMAN LADIES' DEPARTMENT ART STALL:

Mrs. Francis.

POST OFFICE: PARCELS POST AND PAWN

SHOP.

Mr. Long.

FLOWER STALL: CHOICEST BLOOMS:

Miss Rosebud.

GAMES, ARCHERY RESORTS, &c.:

Mrs. Vernon and an able Committee.

PHOTOGRAPHER:

Mrs. Bell Irving and a distinguished Staff.

EVENING GRAND CAFE CHANTANT

under the management of

Messrs. GEORGE HUTTON POTTS

and

FELIX J. WALBYN.

Sole Spiriting and Management by

H.M.S. *Undertaken* Blackbird Minstrels.

VOCALIST:

PROFESSOR BARSTOWN.

NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, PALMISTRY,

TOBACCO.

By the kindness of Lieut.-Col. Manwaring

and the Officers,

the Band of Royal Welsh Fusiliers will attend.

MRS. L. BELL IRVING,

Hon. Secretary.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4973]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,

LIMITED.

FOR SWATOW, AMOY AND FOCHOW.

The Company's Steamship

"THALES."

Captain Hall, will be despatched for the above

Ports, on FRIDAY, the 14th instant, at Day-

light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAIPRAK & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4948]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY,

LIMITED.

FOR AMOY AND TAMSUI.

The Company's Steamship

"FORMOSA."

Captain Douglas, will be despatched for the above

Ports, on FRIDAY, the 14th instant, at Day-

light.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

DOUGLAS LAIPRAK & Co.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4954]

THE OSAKA SHOSHEN KAISHA,

LIMITED.

REGULAR WEEKLY SERVICE TO

SWATOW, AMOY AND TAMSUI.

The Company will run the Regular Line

between HONGKONG and the above ports

with the Company's steamers.

"MATZURU MARU"

"SUMIDAGAWA MARU"

S.S. *Matzuru Maru* Captain S. Nagate will be

despatched for the above ports on SUNDAY,

the 16th instant, at Daylight.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

MITSUBISHI BUSSAN KAISHA,

Agents.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4414]

OCEAN STEAMSHIP COMPANY.

FOR LONDON VIA SUEZ CANAL.

The Company's Steamship

"MYRMIDON."

Captain Robinson, will be despatched as above

on THURSDAY, the 20th instant.

For Freight, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4943]

To-day's Advertisement.

CHINA NAVIGATION COMPANY,

LIMITED.

FOR TIENTSIN.

Calling at Kiao-chow and Weihaiwei if

Sufficient Inducement Offers.

THE Company's Steamship

"NANCHANG."

Captain Finlayson, will be despatched as above

on MONDAY, the 24th instant.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BUTTERFIELD & SWIRE,

Agents.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1899. [4984]

Intimation.



A. S. WATSON & Co.,

LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

PORTS

(For Invalids and General Use.)

B.—VINTAGE, superior quality.

Red Capsule \$14.40

C.—FINE OLD VINTAGE, sup-

erior quality. Black

Seal Capsule 16.20

D.—VERY FINE OLD VINTAGE

extra superior. Violet

Capsule (Old Bottled) 20.10

Port after removal should be rested

for a month before use. Wine re-

quired for drinking at once should be

ordered to be decanted at the Dis-

pensary before being sent out.

These Wines are too favourably

known to need comment.

Sample bottles and smaller quanti-

ties will be supplied at proportionate

wholesale rates.

We only guarantee our Wines and

spirits to be genuine when bought

direct from us in the Colony or from

our authorised Agents at the Coast

Ports.

A. S. WATSON & Co., Limited,

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1899.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

PLAQUE.

Last week saw a very considerable increase

in the number of plague cases reported, there

being no less than seventeen in the city and

two in other districts, or nineteen in all, while

the deaths numbered sixteen. This rapid

increase in the number of cases leads one to

believe that the disease is now obtaining a

firmer hold upon the town and that we must

prepare for an epidemic as in former years,

though it is earnestly to be hoped that such

will not prove to be the case. Last year,

as our readers will remember, the plague

assumed a more virulent form here and

Europeans did not appear to be so exempt

from it as in former years, several succumbing

to the disease after an illness of shockingly

short duration. Not only were the nursing

staff at the Hospital attacked, but persons

who apparently had no connection whatsoever

with the Chinese or plague were carried off

by it.

WEATHER AND THE PLAQUE.

We have heard many theories put forward

as to the meteorological conditions under

which plague flourishes. Some contend

that a long period of drought is favourable

to the disease, while others contend that it

flourishes most in the wet weather. The

large increase shown in the number of cases

reported last week should be of interest to

all who are studying the disease, as the in-

crease is most marked and has come just at the

moment when we have experienced our first

few damp days after a long drought. In fact

it looks very much as though the moisture

had given a fresh lease of life to the disease,

much in the same manner as it does to the

vegetation. Is it not possible that the plague

germs are bred in the accumulations of dust

and dirt of the dry season, lie dormant until

the advent of the rains, when the damp

moist heat releases them from their torpor

and starts them multiplying and spreading

in all directions with the greatest rapidity?

SYSTEMATIC CLEANSING.

We trust that the Sanitary Authorities are

fully alive to the fact that strong measures

must be taken to arrest the further progress

of the disease at once. Cleansing, white-

washing, and disinfecting parties should be

sent into the Chinese quarters of the town

and immediate steps should be taken to

thoroughly inspect the narrow alleys and

lanes and cleanse them of their filth. It is

not sufficient that places where plague cases

have been discovered, should be cleansed

and disinfected; that method of procedure

is too much akin to closing the stable door after the horse has been stolen. What we should like to see would be a thorough and systematic, every lane and alley visited, every hole and corner turned out, a search for dirt instituted inside as well as outside the houses, and prosecutions for nuisances undertaken. There is plenty of dirt to be found if only the authorities will take the trouble to look for it and not imagine every lane and alley to be a small sanitary paradise until its filthy state is pointed out to them.

DRAINS.

The drains of the city require looking to, we believe. Gangs of men are to be met with here and there, it is true, flushing them with a few buckets of water and clearing obstructions with a chain and scraper, but, for all that, the fact remains that the most nauseating odours proceed from many of the traps. This is no doubt attributable to the drought, but still some remedy should be found for it; either more water or a free use of disinfectants. Disinfectants and cleansing of drains will of course run the Colony into money, but money spent upon sanitary measures is never wasted; the prosperity of Hongkong depends upon the sanitary condition of the place to a very much greater extent than many people suppose, we depend upon our shipping and the shipping depends upon the port being free of disease, for otherwise quarantine is enforced against arrivals from Hongkong, vexatious delay is occasioned and those vessels which can dispense with calling at the port prefer to do so in order to escape the expenses attendant upon being placed in quarantine.

ANOTHER PLAQUE.

But there is another plague prevalent in the Colony, which, though not so fatal in its effects, brings untold misery upon thousands and renders many of our soldiers and sailors, and civilians, as well, unfit for duty and a positive source of danger to the rest of the community. We refer to the prevalence of venereal disease in Hongkong. The report of the Army Medical Department for 1897, which has just been published, states that cases of venereal disease amongst the troops stationed in China increased during the year under review by no less than thirty-three per cent. We know that this is an unsavoury subject, but nevertheless it is necessary that the ravages of this terrible scourge should be brought forcibly before the public in order that steps may be taken to check it. Many folks are of opinion that the contraction of the disease is sufficient punishment to the man and that, as the punishment fits the crime, there need be no more said about the matter. We wish that it were so, but unfortunately in too many instances it is the innocent that are obliged to suffer for the sins of the guilty. If only the disease carried off the man or marked him for life, like small-pox, matters would be very different, but it hangs in the system showing no outward and visible traces and the result is that it can be spread broadcast, and spread it is to thousands of homes. Children and adults alike are tainted with it through no fault of their own, and endless misery and suffering are caused by it, owing to its contagious nature and the ease with which it may be spread.

A REMEDY WANTED.

Is it right that the innocent should suffer for the guilty in this manner? When the C.D. Act was in force in Hongkong the disease was greatly checked, as the reports of the medical authorities show. Not only did the number of cases decrease but the disease became of a less virulent type and the cases admitted to hospital were much more susceptible to treatment and were discharged in a shorter period. The increase in 1897 proves that its ravages are now becoming greater and surely no better reason for the re-instatement of the C. D. Act can be produced. The act houses of the town were confined to certain quarters of the town. Now they are spreading in all directions and the inmates are allowed to practise their calling in streets frequented by our wives, daughters and sisters. We know that the subject is obnoxious, that it is grossly immoral and disgusting, but there is no use in shutting one's eyes to immorality because it is immorality, and saying that vice must not be regulated. Surely it is better to choose the lesser of two evils, and if the state regulation of vice will serve to save one of the innocent from suffering for the sins of the guilty, then we say that the end would amply justify the means. We should be only too ready to advocate the raising of the moral standard if we thought that by so doing the evil could be remedied, but unfortunately man will sin and woman will fall to the end of the chapter, and this being the case, why should not the moral be protected from the consequences of the sins of their weaker fellows to the greatest possible extent?

TELEGRAMS.

(By Telegraph.)

Special to the "Hongkong Telegraph."

THE WAR IN THE PHILIPPINES.

FURTHER FIGHTING.

SANTA CRUZ TAKEN.

MANILA, April 12th.

10.45 a.m.

On Monday night the Philippines attacked the American outposts between Manila and Malolos, and the telegraph wire and damaged the railway line. The American troops were concentrated and, having repulsed the enemy, repaired the line. The American loss was six killed and sixteen wounded. General Lawton, operating in the lake region, captured Santa Cruz.

Received at 11.45 a.m.

Published at 1.30 p.m.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS.

THE DUCHY OF SAXE-COTHA.

LONDON, April 10th.

